

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, CI
SUBJ: VISIT OF ICFTU AND ORIT OFFICIALS TO CHILE

REF: BRUSSELS 05128

1. ENZO FRISO, LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND JUAN JOSE DEL PINO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ORIT) VISITED CHILE APRIL 3-7. THE TWO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONISTS WERE GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY THE "GROUP OF TEN" (DINAMICOS) WHO TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE PAIR DURING THEIR VISIT. DEL PINO PLANS TO NAME A NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ORIT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN CHILE AND DEMONSTRATED ORIT'S SUPPORT FOR THE "GROUP OF TEN" BY ASKING TUCAPEL JIMENEZ TO SUGGEST A SUITABLE CANDIDATE. FRISO AND DEL PINO
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DID NOT SPEAK TO ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. MUCH OF THEIR VISIT WAS SPENT WITH THE SOCIALIST AND LEFTIST POLITICAL LEADERS. FRISO EXPLAINED TO LABATT AND AIFLD CPD THAT THIS CONTACT WAS NECESSARY AS THE EUROPEANS STILL REGARD EDUARDO RIOS AND MANY OF THE "GROUP OF TEN" AS GOVERNMENT LACKIES BECAUSE OF THEIR

SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY TAKEOVER AT JUNE 1974 ILO MEETING. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT A NORDIC COMMISSION HAD RECENTLY COME TO CHILE AND THEY REGARDED THE "GROUP OF TEN" AS THE MOST AUTHENTIC GROUP HERE, WHILE ALSO BELIEVING THAT THE FORMER U.P. SUPPORTERS DESERVED CONTINUED SUPPORT. FRISO STATED THAT THE ICFTU WOULD NOW SUPPORT BOTH GROUPS UNTIL THE EUROPEANS CAN BE CONVINCED TO FORGET RIOS' SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA IN 1974. FRISO ADDED THAT THIS SUPPORT WOULD BE EARMARKED INITIALLY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND HE CHanneled THROUGH TWO CATHOLIC CHURCH RELATED ORGANIZATIONS, THE "PASTORAL OBRERO" AND THE CARDIUN FOUNDATION. JIMENEZ COMMENTED TO FRISO THAT EFFECTIVELY THE AID WOULD GIVEN TO THE COMMUNISTS WHO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS THAN DO "THE TEN". FRISO URGED "THE TEN" TO PREVENT THIS MISUSE OF ICFTU FUNDS BY COOPERATING WITH CHURCH RELATED LABOR ACTIVITIES.

3. COMMENT: FRISO AND DEL PINO WERE GRATEFUL FOR CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND AIFLD. WHILE ORIT'S SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC UNIONISM IS CLEAR, FRISO'S CALL FOR MORE CONTACT BETWEEN THE "GROUP OF TEN" AND THE LEFT IS NOT HELPFUL. THE "DINAMICOS" WOULD LIKE MORE DIRECT ASSISTANCE FROM THE ICFTU. THEY WOULD PREFER THAT IT COME ONLY TO THEM DIRECTLY AND NOT THROUGH MASS ORGANIZATIONS OPEN TO THE SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS AND OTHER LEFT

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GROUPS. CLOSER TIES WITH THE LEFT, AS THE PRICE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE, MAY JEOPARDIZE PROSENT STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE US LABOR MOVEMENT, AND RISKS INCREASED GOC PRESSURE TO REMOVE THE "DINAMICOS" FROM THEIR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. WHEN JESSE FRIEDMAN WAS HERE IN LATE JANUARY, LABOR MINISTER VASCO COSTA HINTED THAT THE GOC WAS PLANNING A MOVE AGAINST THE REMAINING LEFTIST LEADERS. FRIEDMAN MADE CLEAR THAT THE US LABOR MOVEMENT WOULD REACT STRONGLY TO ANY ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE THE "GROUP OF TEN" IN SUCH AN OPERATION. WE HAVE HEARD NO MORE OF THE IDEA SINCE, BUT IT MAY NOT BE DEAD.

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